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GEOGRAPHICAL RECORD

THE AMERICAN GEOGRAPHICAL SOICETY

CAPTAIN AMUNDSEN'S CABLEGRAM. Capt. Amundsen cabled the following to President Huntington on March 19 in response to the President's message of congratulation in behalf of the Society under date of March 11 printed in the March *Bulletin:*

Mr. Huntington, President American Geographical Society:

Sir: With the heartiest thanks for your kind .telegram.

Yours very truly,
ROALD AMUNDSEN.

AN EXHIBITION TO BE GIVEN AT THE SOCIETY'S HOUSE. At the meeting of the Council on Thursday, May 16, the working staff was authorized to collect photographs and other material to be exhibited in the large rooms on the first floor of the building. The plan is to show representative scenes in those parts of the country which will be visited by the Transcontinental Excursion, such as panoramic views of cities, the prairie of Glacial Lake Agassiz, the Bad Lands of the Little Missouri, the Minnesota Iron Mining District; views of one or two of the larger reclamation works with bits of arid plains before improvement and after; views in the Yellowstone, Glacier, Crater Lake, Mt. Ranier, Yosemite, Sequoia and Mesa Verde National Parks, the Grand Cañon of the Colorado, etc.

It is intended that the exhibition shall be ready by the time the foreign delegates on the Excursion begin to arrive in this city. After the departure of the Excursion for the west the exhibition will be open to members of the Society and the general public.

THE ATTENDANCE AT OUR LECTURES. During the past session 3,766 persons attended the six popular lectures given by the Society in the auditorium of the Engineering Society's Building.

NORTH AMERICA

MAGNETIC DECLINATION IN THE UNITED STATES. Special Publication No. 9 of the Coast and Geodetic Survey contains a magnetic declination chart for the United States for the epoch Jan. 1, 1910. After the publication of the isogonic chart of the United States for 1905 so much additional data were accumulated and the secular change of the magnetic declination underwent such material modification that a new chart was demanded. Jan. 1, 1910 was selected as the epoch for the chart in order that the reduction of the observations to that epoch might be based on actual observations of the secular change.

West declination is increasing much more rapidly in the North Atlantic States than was supposed in 1905. The annual change is now about 6′ throughout New England. On the Pacific coast east declination is increasing more rapidly than in 1905, but the region of the maximum annual change is now apparently some distance inland.

The north end of the compass needle is moving to the westward at all places east of the line of no annual change and to the eastward at all places west of that line. Accordingly, three regions may be distinguished:

(*a*) In the region of the United States east of the line of no magnetic declination (agonic line) west declination is increasing at an annual rate of from 2′ to 6′.

(*b*) In the region between the agonic line and the line of no annual change east declination is decreasing at an annual rate of from 0′ to 2′.

(*c*) In the region west of the line of no annual change east declination is increasing at the annual rate of from 0′ to 5′.

Under present remarkable conditions it is impossible to predict with accuracy what the secular motion will be for even a few years in advance. There appear to be two waves of secular motion progressing across the continent in opposite directions, but it is impossible to state which one will predominate. Interesting developments may be expected in the next few years.

West declination is increasing about 7′ a year in Bermuda and about 9′ a year at the Porto Rico Magnetic Observatory on Vieques Island.

ALUMINUM IN THE UNITED STATES. Aluminum, a few years ago a rare metal, too expensive to have any particular economic value, has to-day come into wide use in a great number of industries. The consumption in the United States in 1911, according to the United States Geological Survey, was 46,125,000 pounds, the price in New York ranging from 18½ to 22 cents a pound. The Survey has just published a report by W. C. Phalen on "Bauxite and Aluminum," an advance chapter from "Mineral Resources of the United States" for 1911, which gives a comprehensive review of the industry for the year. Bauxite ore, the present source for metallic aluminum, is mined in Arkansas, Georgia, Alabama, and Tennessee, the output from these States combined amounting in 1911 to 155,618 long tons, valued at $750,649, an increase of about 5 per cent. in both quantity and value compared with the figures for 1910. The increase, though small, shows a healthful condition of the industries dependent on this ore for raw material. (*U. S. Geol. Surv. Press Bull. May 7, 1912.*)

EXPEDITION TO THE EVERGLADES OF FLORIDA. Under the auspices of the Geographical Society of Philadelphia, a botanical and geographical expedition is to be made this summer to southern Florida by Professor John W. Harshberger of the University of Pennsylvania. Professor Harshberger has made two previous trips to Florida and this expedition is to complete his studies in the Everglades region of the southern part of the peninsula. The itinerary will be approximately as follows: Making Ft. Myers near the west coast, headquarters, Prof. Harshberger will first investigate the region in that vicinity; visits will be made to several of the islands along the Gulf Coast; the Caloosahatchee will be ascended by power boat to Lake Okeechobee and the flora of that inland lake will be studied. Then the attempt will be made (if the drainage canal has been sufficiently constructed) to cross the Everglades to Ft. Lauderdale on the east coast. As no botanical geographer has ever crossed the Everglades, unusual opportunities will be presented to study a region of great scientific interest. Photographs will be taken of the vegetation, the region will be mapped botanically, and a collection of the more interesting plants will be made. An abstract of the results of this expedition will be published in the October number of the *Bulletin* of the Geographical Society of Philadelphia.

LOWER CRETACEOUS DEPOSITS OF MARYLAND. The Maryland Geographical Survey has just issued Vol. 4 of the series of Reports dealing with the systematic geology and paleontology of Maryland (622 pp. Maps, ills.). The preceding volumes dealt with the Tertiary and Quarternary deposits and the remains of animal and plant life which they contain. The present volume treats of the Lower Cretaceous deposits and their contained life.

IRON ORES OF MARYLAND. The Maryland Geological Survey has published a "Report on the Iron Ores of Maryland," with an account of the Iron Industry by Joseph T. Singewald, Jr. (Vol. 9, 1911, Part 3, pp. 123-327. Maps, ills.). The history of the Maryland Iron Industry is traced from the early colonial days when Maryland ranked foremost as an iron producer, through the prosperous period preceding the Civil War to the subsequent rapid decline in prominence due to extraordinary development elsewhere. The localities where iron has been worked or is now known to exist are described and in many instances the ores are analyzed. Nearly 300 such deposits are located on the maps in the Report. The hope is expressed that this Report will attract to the State those seeking other deposits when the richer ones used at present become exhausted.

DEVELOPMENT IN WESTERN CANADA. The Railroad lines of the Grand Trunk Pacific in Western Canada are being extended this spring, it is said, at the rate of ten miles a day and the company soon expects to be adding 120 miles to its trackage every week, the pioneer parties working day and night. A through passenger service between Regina, the capital of Saskatchewan, and Winnipeg will be established in June. Six thousand men are now at work on the construction of the Transcontinental line, in the region of the Rocky Mountains. This company is now opening virgin territory in British Columbia, where hunting opportunities are said to be unexcelled. A fine moose country extends from the region of the northern bend of the Fraser River to the Little Smoke River. Caribou are also plentiful in this district on the higher plateaus and grizzly and black bear are numerous. With the exception of antelope and mush ox, British Columbia has every variety of big game on the continent.

RAPID GROWTH OF A CANADIAN TOWN. The Mayor of Edson, a young town in Alberta, on the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway, has issued this very concise record of the progress of Edson : "Steel arrived, Aug., 1910. Population 15. Incorporated as a village Jan., 1911; population 490. Incorporated as a town Dec., 1911; population 800. Present population March, 1912, 1,253. Present places of business, 67. Value of buildings 1911, $486,000." The growth of Edson is assisted by the fact that it is the distributing point between the railroad and the Grand Prairie and Peace River Districts to the north.

THE DIABASES OF LAKE NIPIGON. In explaining the traps or diabases in the Nipigon basin, north of the Keweenawan lavas of Lake Superior, as surface flows, Alfred W. G. Wilson ("Geology of the Nipigon Basin, Ontario." Memoir No. 1, Canada Dept. of Mines, Geol. Surv. Branch, 1910, pp. 72-100) returns to the view of Sir William Logan. Ingall and Lawson, however, have not held this view and the latter in 1893 put forward strong evidence in support of the hypothesis that they are laccolithic sills. Some of the traps Wilson acknowledges to be of this origin. For the others, forming hilltop caps, although they show none of the glassy, amygdaloidal, or flow structures of lava flows, Wilson feels that the presence of soils beneath the lavas and the adjustment of the diabase to a pre-diabase topography with a relief of as much as 300 feet, coupled with various relationships of unconformities and of included boulders, and the absence of laccolithic roof phenomena, warrant his regarding these traps "as the basal residuals of a once very extensive flow or series of flows of a very fluid diabase over the well dissected topography of a previous cycle."

LAWRENCE MARTIN.

SOUTH AMERICA

A New Chilean Historical and Geographical Society. A new scientific society was founded in Santiago de Chile on September 21, 1911, under the name of "Sociedad Chilena de Historia & Geografia." The administration of the society is in the hands of a council composed of sixteen members, eight of whom are elected every two years.

Among the councillors are Luis Riso Patrón, the director of the Oficina de Mensura de Tierras, who is also president of the geographical section of the society, and F. W. Ristenpart, professor of astronomy at the University of Chile and director of the astronomical observatory of Santiago. Enrique Matta Vial was elected secretary, Enrique Blanchard Chessi, librarian, and Ramón A. Laval, treasurer.

The society is divided into three sections: History, Geography and Archeology. Each section has its own president and secretary. The society will have its headquarters at the National Library for the present. Its work will be made known by means of a Bulletin which it is desired to exchange with the publications of other scientific institutions. Correspondence should be addressed to the Secretary, Correo Central, Casilla 1672, Santiago de Chile.

Ascent of Mt. Coropuna. Prof. Hiram Bingham of Yale, Director of the Yale-Peruvian Expedition in 1911, described in *Harpers Monthly Magazine* for March his ascent of Mt. Coropuna, Peru. This mountain was marked on the older maps of Raimondi as having a height of 6,949 meters; but as near as Prof. Bingham could determine his height with his aneroids, the mountain, however, has an altitude of only 21,525 feet above sea-level. The ascent was comparatively easy. The summit of the mountain is almost flat for an area of nearly an acre. It is oval in shape 100 feet north and south and 175 feet east and west. The summit slopes rather abruptly on the north side, moderately on the west and very gently for some distance to the south and west.

AFRICA

Mapping Tripolitania. In a series of letters addressed to the *Rivista Geografica Italiana* (March-April, 1912), Col. E. Caputo says that the work recently undertaken by the Istituto Geografico Militare in the new colony is mainly devoted to the compilation of a basal map of Tripolitania on a scale of 1:100,000. At the same time some of the topographers have been detailed for the preparation of a map in 1:25,000 of the Menscia region. It is intended to issue eventually special large scale maps of the more important districts.

No absolutely authoritative map of this portion of Northern Africa yet exists. The coast has been surveyed by the British Admiralty and four different maps have been published by the Istituto Geografico Militare. All the data available for this compilation consisted of a very small number of astronomical observations, some compass surveys of the routes followed by the more reliable explorers and a few conflicting barometric determinations. Such were the elements used in the "Carta dimostrativa della Tripolitania alla scala di 1:1,500,000," comprising the region north of the 22nd parallel and within meridians 9° and 25° east. Three other maps on a larger scale were prepared in the same manner.

The party sent by the Istituto Geografico Militare is headed by Col. Eugenio Caputo. Prof. Ing. Antonio Loperfido has charge of the geodetic work. Lieut. Giannini and Chief Topographer Alessandrini are to make the necessary astronomical and geodetic observations. Captains Quaglia, Cavallo, Milanesi and Bonatti have been detailed to undertake a preliminary survey. Prof. Loperfido will have to determine the astronomic position of the City of Tripoli as well as a suitable base line to be used in subsequent triangulation. He will also collect the necessary nautical and geometric tidal data for the determination of the true sea level to be used in the computation of altitudes.

The following work is now being carried on by the Italian Survey: determination of latitude and azimuths, precise leveling, determination of the mean coefficient of atmospheric refraction and topographic triangulation to serve for the relief of the Menscia district. Immediately following the completion of this work it is intended to proceed with the measurement of a geodetic base on the borders of the oases of Gurgi and Gargaresc.

The Menscia Survey is in fair progress. It was expected that the original map would be ready for reproduction some time in May. The delay in its preparation is due in part to the wealth of details which the country offers. It also happens occasionally that the topographers are requisitioned by the military commander for work of an urgent nature. Barring such delays the work is said to be proceeding very satisfactorily. LEON DOMINIAN.

THE GERMAN EAST AFRICA CENTRAL R.R. COMPLETED TO TABORA. On Feb. 25 the first locomotive on this railroad, now building between Daressalam, the capital of German East Africa, and Lake Tanganyika, arrived at Tabora, the chief point on the route between the Indian Ocean and Tanganyika. Tabora was long the central mart of the Arabs, where all trade routes converged from the southern part of Victoria Nyanza, the eastern coast of Tankanyika and the northern shores of Lake Nyasa. The railroad has thus tapped the great trade center of the interior of the Protectorate. It has taken two years to build this 525 miles of the line. The appropriation for the construction of the railroad to Tabora was greater than the sum expended, so that a considerable amount of funds remains to be applied on the further extension of the road. It is probable that trains will be in operation from Daressalam on the Indian Ocean to Lake Tanganyika, 800 miles, early in 1914. This rail route will then be the shortest route from the Belgian Congo through German East Africa to the Indian Ocean. (*Geog. Zeits., Vol. 18, 1912, No. 4, p. 225.*)

ASCENT OF MT. ELGON. The Austrian Uganda Expedition, led by Mr. R. Kmunke, ascended the extinct volcano Elgon in December last. This famous mountain, about 60 miles N. E. of Victoria Nyanza, was first brought to notice by the British explorer Joseph Thomson, who found on the lower slopes many artificial caves inhabited by natives. Kmunke pitched his camp in the crater at an elevation of 12,529 feet and later ascended Jackson Peak, the southwestern summit, and finally Franz Josef Peak on the north side of the mountain, where Elgon attains its greatest elevation, 14,192 feet.

LE SERVICE GÉOGRAPHIQUE DE MADAGASCAR SUSPENDED. (*Annales de Géographie,* Vol. 21, No. 116, 1912) says that this survey service which has contributed so largely to the mapping of Madagascar, has been virtually suppressed since the close of last year. The survey was established in April, 1896. The discontinuance of this important geographical work, unprecedented in the history of military cartography, is due to the fact that the budget of 1912 contained no provision for its support. The appropriation provided for carrying it on has averaged about $18,000 a year. With a budget scarcely one-fifth those devoted to the mapping of French Indo-China and French West Africa, the Madagascar Service was surveying and publishing over four sheets a year in 1:100,000 and had begun the publication of a map in 1:200,000. Its reconnaisance map in 1:500,000 was completed in 1905. The entire work has now been suspended, the offices closed, and staff disbanded. The result is that the only map of the whole of Madagascar (1:500,000) is inadequate for the study and establishment of wagon and rail routes. The service will necessarily be reestablished some day, but there is no telling how much its plant will have deterioriated by that time.

ASIA

STUDYING A VOLCANO IN ERUPTION. The Swiss Geologist, Dr. Arnold Heim, who has been engaged recently in geological field work in Java, ascended the highest mountain of the island, Smeroe (12,057 feet) and reached its summit just as the eruption of Nov. 15, 1911, was beginning. He was accompanied by the Dutch mining engineer, Mr. Van Goghand. They were able to make important observations and to secure photographs which will later be published.

ETHNOLOGICAL EXPLORATIONS. In February, Dr. Herbert Müller of the Anthropological Museum in Berlin started for China to begin ethnological researches in Manchuria and Eastern Mongolia.

EUROPE

EIGHTEENTH MEETING OF GERMAN GEOGRAPHERS. According to the program of the eighteenth "Deutscher Geographentag," held at Innsbruck on May 28, 29 and 30, the papers to be presented were grouped under the following subjects: Exploration; Geography of the Alps: (a) Anthropo-geography, (b) Geomorphology; Teaching of Geography; History of Geography.

Under Exploration the following papers were announced: "Report on the Results of the Austro-Italian Exploration of the Adriatic in 1911-1912," by Prof. Brückner; "The Physiographic Results of the German Tendaguru Expedition to East Africa in 1911," by Dr. J. v. Staff; "The Physiography of the Tian Shan in its Relation to Climate and to the Development of Plant Life," by Prof. Merzbacher; "Glacial Studies in the Western Tian Shan," by Prof. Machatschek; "Main Results of the Expedition to German East Africa in 1906-07," by Prof. Fritz Jaeger; "An Oceanographical Cruise on the Atlantic Ocean in 1911," by Dr. A. Merz.

The place of the meeting naturally led to the choice of the Alps as a subject for special consideration. Under this heading the following papers were to be presented: (Anthropo-geography) "The Uninhabited Districts of the Eastern Alps," by Prof. N. Krebs; "Historical Development of the Bavarian-Tyrolean Boundary," by Dr. O. Stolz; (Geomorphology) "Contribution to the Geomorphology of the Styrian Marginal Alps," by Prof. J. Sölch; "On the Origin of Alpine Valley Troughs as Illustrated by the Hohe Tauern," by Dr. L. Distel;; "On the Unity and the Causes of the Glacial Period in the Alps," by Prof. R. Lepsius; "Tentative Reconstruction of the Inn Glacier," by Dr. R. v. Klebelsberg; "Timber- and Snow-line in the Alps: A Contribution to the Climatology of Alpine Regions," by Prof. V. Paschinger.

To the teaching of geography papers were to be devoted by Prof. R. Sieger on "The Position of Geography in Austrian Secondary Schools [Mittelschulen]," and by Prof. G. A. Lukas on "Colonial Geography in Austrian Higher Schools." In addition, reports were to be made on the work, during 1909-1912, of the Permanent Committee on Geographical Teaching by its chairman, Prof. Heinrich Fischer, and, by Prof. Penck, on the position to be taken by the Geographentag towards the German Committee on the Teaching of Mathematics and Science.

The following papers were to be read dealing with the history of geography: "The Survival of Erastothenian Units of Measure," by Prof. R. v. Scala; "The History of Geography, and Historical Geography," by Prof. S. Günther; "The Transmission to Posterity of Manuscript Maps of Ptolemy," by Prof. Joseph Fischer; "On the Beginnings of the Knowledge of the Compass in Europe," by Dr. A. Hennig.

The usual report of the "Zentralkommission für wissenschaftliche Landeskunde von Deutschland" was also to be presented by Prof. Friedrich Hahn and a resolution submitted to the meeting urging the preparation by the Commission of a physical atlas in which should be represented regions of special geological and climatological interest in Germany.

In connection with the meeting an exhibition was to be given in the Museum Ferdinandeum dealing with the historical geography of the Tyrol. It was to contain old maps of the Tyrol, old plans and views of Innsbruck, globes and surveying instruments which belonged to the Tyrolean surveyors, Peter Anich and Blasius Hueber, and relief maps of parts of the Tyrol.

In addition, execursions were to be made to the regions of geographical interest so readily accessible from Innsbruck. The main excursion under the leadership of Professors Blaas and v. Wieser, to last three days, was to have the southern Tyrol for its field. After a short visit to the basin of Brixen, Bozen was to be used as a center for excursions in the vicinity. These were to include visits to the Eppan moraine and an ascent of the Mendel Pass on the western side of the Adige valley, and, to the northeast of Bozen, a visit to the plateau of the Ritten with its splendid panorama of the Dolomites. Secondary excursions were planned, in the vicinity of Innsbruck, to the new Karwendel Railroad, which affords direct access to the Inn valley from Munich instead of by the detour via Kufstein, to the mouth of the Ötztal, and to the Berg Isel.

The Innsbruck meeting is thus seen to be the equal of its predecessors in the breadth of its conception of our subject and, therein, representative of the German school of geography. W. L. G. J.

The Oldest Map of Lombardy. According to R. Almagià (*Riv. Geog. Ital.,* March-April, 1912), the oldest printed map of Lombardy hitherto known was that found in the "Raccolta Lafrery" in the Biblioteca de' Bardi at Florence, bearing the date of 1556, although no printer's name appears on it. It seems, however, that an earlier map exists in the so-called "Raccolte Lafrery" owned by the Vittorio Emanuele Library in Rome. This map is printed from a woodcut measuring 53.2 x 39.5 cms, and is bordered by a single straight line on all sides. On the upper left hand the name "LOMBARDIA" is inscribed. The lower left hand corner contains the following inscription: NOVVM. LANGOBA | RDIE. OPVS SVNMA | DILIGENTA (sic). INMPR | ESSIT. VENETIS. LVC | AS ANTONIVS. DE R. | VBERTIS. APDE. PON | TE DIVE. MOISES. CV | M M. GRATIA.

No scale or coordinates are given. The map shows the stretch of land between Milan and the Adriatic sea. Pictures of military exploits of the period and bearing dates ranging between 1494 and 1515 are represented. This leads the writer to assume that the map was printed sometime between 1515 and 1525. The latter date is that of the battle of Pavia, which, he claims, would surely be mentioned on account of its importance.